**New Hope Las Vegas Christian Fellowship (NHLV)**

**Water Baptism ProCEDURES**

Water Baptism is a church ordinance that we follow at NHLV. Water Baptism is for those who have been Born Again by God’s Spirit. Water Baptism is an outward act (work) of obedience by which the Christian believer fulfills or completes the inward righteousness which he receives through Christ’s death, burial and resurrection. Water Baptism is not for babies, unbelievers or persons who have not made a commitment to Christ. We allow individuals 9 years and older to be water baptized. All minors are required to get their parent’s signature and approval on the application.

The person being water baptized is to understand and be taught the nature of his/her act; have repented of his sins; believe and confess that Jesus died, rose from the grave and paid the penalty for his sins; and be able to answer to God with a good conscience prior to getting water baptized. This person is fully immersed in water upon being water baptized and prayed over by the NHLV Leadership Team.

Prior to the water baptism, we provide a short teaching time on the basics of water baptism. We usually ask that the NHLV Pastors or Leadership Team provide this teaching. We will provide an outline of this teaching to those willing to teach on water baptism.

**Leadership Team To Perform Baptism**

There are individuals who currently serve on the NHLV Leadership Team and are Life Group Leaders who have been approved to perform Water Baptisms as Lead Prayer Captains.

Lead Prayer Captains lead the public prayer and declares the confession of faith over the person being water baptized. He/She says the following statement when baptizing the individual:

**“By the confession of your faith, I now baptize you in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, which is our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

These leaders are also encouraged to accompany the Lead Prayer Captain in the waters of baptism through the laying on of hands and providing prayer covering. Also, those individuals who are serving in the leadership team of a particular ministry (Men, Women, Youth, Children, Lifegroup, etc. ) are also encouraged to be a part of the water baptism team. These individuals are to uphold the leadership standards of integrity and right living, as they are also representatives of Jesus Christ and the NHLV church. We recommend that these leaders also be included in the prayer team that prays for the individuals once they get water baptized.

**We use 1 Timothy 3:3-12 (NIV) as a guide to those in the NHLV leadership who will be a part of the Water Baptism Prayer Team:**

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach (blameless), faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of fullrespect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.

In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

**1 Timothy 5:22 (NASB) says:**

**Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thereby share responsibility for the sins of others. Keep yourself free from sin (keep thyself pure).**

As a church, we take Water Baptism seriously as it is a sacred ceremony ordained by God for those believers who desire to be dead to their old sinful way of life and to walk in the newness of life as they follow Jesus Christ. We allow those serving in leadership to perform water baptism as they have been vetted and approved in character and integrity to the best of our knowledge. As leaders pray and lay hands on people during baptism, they are imparting God’s anointing and spiritual blessings that is flowing through their life. Leaders are to stand blameless and beyond reproach, not concealing any compromising sin that has not been dealt with before God. This protects and covers both those who are being water baptized and those performing the water baptism. We desire all those involved in the water baptism to be in right standing before God, as vessels of honor.

**Appropriate Dress**

Those involved in the Water Baptism ceremony and doing into the waters of baptism should be appropriately dressed. It is recommended that individuals wear a dark t-shirt with undergarments and appropriate shorts or pants. Pictures will be taken before and/or after the water baptism.

**Water Baptism Application and Certificate**

Those who desire to be water baptized will be asked to complete an application. We keep these for our church records.

To commemorate the event, a picture and certificate will be given to all individuals who are water baptized. All ministries (including Victory Groups) that decide to do their own water baptisms, are required to have their leaders present doing the baptisms, as well as individuals complete an application, which should be submitted to the NHLV church office.

For ministry leaders: Please take a picture of the individual(s) who were water baptized, which commemorates the event, and email information of the date of the water baptism date and full names of the individuals to Rochelle Ogawa at Rochelle@newhopelasvegas.com within one week after the water baptism. Please call the church office at (702) 487-8439 for any questions. Thank you.

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